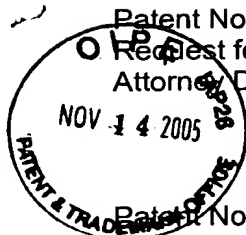


09/831327

COP
9

Patent No. 6,905,758
 Request for Cert. of Correction dated November 9, 2005
 Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 6,905,758 Confirmation No. 2880
 Inventor(s) : Kushida et al.
 Issued : June 14, 2005
 Title : Decorative Item and Process for Producing the Same
 Examiner : Archene Turner
 Customer No. : 28289

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate
 NOV 17 2005
 of Correction

ATTENTION: Decision and Certificate of Correction
 Branch of the Patent Issue Division

Sir:

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§254 and 255, we attach hereto Form PTO/SB/44 and a copy of proof of errors and request that a Certificate of Correction be issued in the above-identified patent. The following errors appear in the patent as printed:

- (1) Title Page, see Item (56) References Cited, under U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS, insert the following: 5,985,469 11-1999 Kurakata et al.
 under FOREIGN DOCUMENTS, insert the following:
 JP 62199765 09-1987
 (See the Notice of References Cited accompanying the April 9, 2003 Office Action.)
- (2) Title Page, See (57) ABSTRACT, line 4, "hardened later" should read -- hardened layer --
 (See substitute Abstract of the Disclosure which was faxed on February 2, 2005.)
- (3) Column 5, line 28, "material is pr4eferably" should read -- material is preferably --
 (See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 8, line 7.)
- (4) Column 5, line 48, "basis base material" should read -- base material --
 (See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 9, line 4.)
- (5) Column 11, line 57, "basis material" should read -- base material --
 (See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 14, line 19.)
- (6) Column 12, line 30, "basis material" should read -- base material --
 (See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 15, line 1.)
- (7) Column 12, line 44, "basis material" should read -- base material --
 (See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 15, line 13.)
- (8) Column 16, line 10, "connecting pails" should read -- connecting parts --
 (See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 18, third replacement ¶, line 15.)

{W0226623.1}

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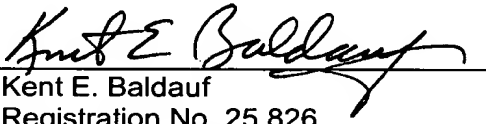
100.00 DP

01 FC:1811

- (9) Column 24, line 15, "is thus exce3llent" should read -- is thus excellent --
(See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 19, line 21.)
- (10) Column 44, Claim 28, line 18, "at at least a portion" should read -- on at least a portion --
(See Amendment dated October 19, 2004, page 8, Claim 62, line 4. Claim 62 issued as Claim 28.)
- (11) Column 45, Claim 37, line 12, "pieces ad connecting" should read
-- pieces and connecting --
(See Amendment dated October 19, 2004, page 7, Claim 32, line 8. Claim 32 issued as Claim 37.)

The errors numbered 3, 5-7 and 9-11 are obvious typographical errors made by Applicants. A check for \$100.00 is attached to cover the fee for correction of Applicants' mistakes. The remaining errors are printing errors.

Respectfully submitted,
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 
Kent E. Baldauf
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700 Koppers Building
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845
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Facsimile: (412) 471-4094

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Page 1 of 2

PATENT NO. : 6,905,758
APPLICATION NO. : 09/831,327
ISSUE DATE : June 14, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Kushida et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

- (1) Title Page, see Item (56) References Cited, under U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS, insert the following: 5,985,469 11-1999 Kurakata et al.

under FOREIGN DOCUMENTS, insert the following:
JP 62199765 09-1987

- (2) Title Page, See (57) ABSTRACT, line 4, "hardened later" should read -- hardened layer --
- (3) Column 5, line 28, "material is pr4eferably" should read -- material is preferably --
- (4) Column 5, line 48, "basis base material" should read -- base material --
(See Amendment dated August 6, 2003, page 9, line 4.)
- (5) Column 11, line 57, "basis base material" should read -- base material --
- (6) Column 12, line 30, "basis base material" should read -- base material --
- (7) Column 12, line 44, "basis base material" should read -- base material --
- (8) Column 16, line 10, "connecting pails" should read -- connecting parts --
- (9) Column 24, line 15, "is thus exce3llent" should read -- is thus excellent --
- (10) Column 44, Claim 28, line 18, "at at least a portion" should read -- on at least a portion --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER: The Webb Law Firm
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-2450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select Option 2.

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Page 2 of 2

PATENT NO. : 6,905,758
APPLICATION NO. : 09/831,327
ISSUE DATE : June 14, 2005
INVENTOR(S) : Kushida et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

- (11) Column 45, Claim 37, line 12, "pieces ad connecting" should read
-- pieces and connecting --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER: The Webb Law Firm
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-2450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select Option 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
_09/831,327	05/07/2001	Hachirou Kushida	1217-010737	2880

7590

04/09/2003

Russell D Orkin
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818

EXAMINER

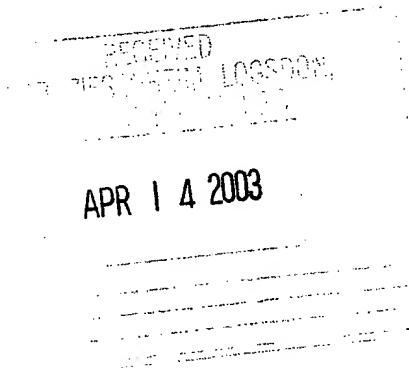
TURNER, ARCHENE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

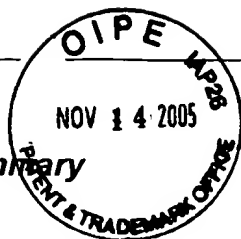
1775

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



Office Action Summary



Application No.

09/831,327

Applicant(s)

KUSHIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Archene Turner

Art Unit

1775

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-16,18,19,21,22,24-57 and 60-78 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-16,18,19,21,22,24-57 and 60-78 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 1775

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

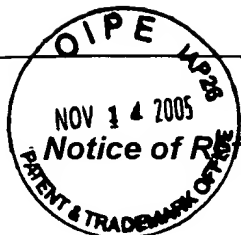
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1, 4, 6-16, 18-19, 21-22, 24-57, 60-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kurakata et al (5,985,469).

Kurakata et al discloses the claimed steel surface hardened and with a layer of the claimed carbide and over layer made by the claimed process.

3. Claims 1, 4, 6-15, 19, 21-22, 24-28, 38-44, 61-63, 70-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suwa (JP 51059732) or Glory KK (JP 56008004) or Daido Tokushuko KK (JP 62199765).

Suwa or Glory KK or Daido Tokushuko KK disclose the claimed steel surface hardened and with a layer of the claimed carbide and over layer made by the claimed process.



Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/831,327	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination KUSHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Archene Turner	Art Unit 1775	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-5985469	11-1999	Kurakata et al	428
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N	62199765	09-1987	JP	Daido Tokushuko KK	—
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
 Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.



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FACSIMILE INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Individual: Examiner Archene A. Turner, Group Art 1775

Company: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

City and State: Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Facsimile Number: (571) 273-1545

From: Kent E. Baldauf, Esq.

Total Number of Pages: 2 (including Information Sheet)

Date Transmitted: February 2, 2005

Appl. No. 09/831,327

Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

Message:

Examiner Turner:

Pursuant to your telephone request of this date, attached is a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure for the above-referenced patent application.

Kent E. Baldauf
Registration No. 25,826
Attorney for Applicants

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The information in this facsimile is privileged and confidential and is intended only for the use of the named recipient. Disclosure or copying of this document or its contents other than by the named recipient is prohibited. If this document is received in error, it should be returned to sender.

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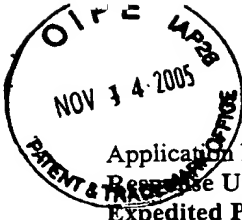
NOV 21 2005

Issue Fee paid 2-1-2005
Appl. No. 09/831,327
Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

DECORATIVE ITEM AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

3 A decorative item and method for making same, such as an exterior part of a timepiece, wristwatch band and the like, includes a basis material of stainless steel having a carburized hardened layer thereon in which carbon is diffused so as to form a solid solution in which crystalline chromium carbide is not formed and at least one hard coating is deposited on the carburized hardened layer of basis material, wherein the hard coating has a surface hardness greater than that of the carburized layer.



Application No. 09/831,327
Received Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1775
Paper dated August 6, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action of April 9, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/831,327
Applicants : Hachirou Kushida et al.
Filed : May 7, 2001
Title : Decorative Item and Process for Producing the Same
Group Art Unit : 1775
Examiner : Archene A. Turner
MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

"AF"

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated April 9, 2003, the Applicants submit herewith a Petition for Extension of Time and the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 23 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 6, 2003.

Ruth A. Walkup
(Typed Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Ruth A. Walkup
Signature

08/06/2003
Date

Application No. 09/831,327
Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1775
Paper dated August 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--at least one hard coating disposed on a surface of the hardened layer of the ~~basis~~
base material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The ~~basis~~ base material is preferably constituted of stainless steel, titanium or
a titanium alloy.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The hard coating and the ~~basis~~ base material at its surface may exhibit
respective tones which are different from each other.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The hard coating preferably has a surface hardness greater than that of the ~~basis~~
base material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--An intermediate layer may be disposed between the hard coating of carbon and
a surface of the hardened layer of the ~~basis~~ base material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is preferred that the intermediate layer comprise a lower layer of Ti or Cr
disposed on the hardened layer surface of the ~~basis~~ base material and an upper layer of Si or Ge
disposed on a surface of the lower layer.--

NOV 21 2005

NOV 21 2005

Application No. 09/831,327
Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1775
Paper dated August 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the decorative item of the present invention, at least two hard coatings may be formed on the hardened layer surface of the ~~basis~~ base material, or at least two hard coatings may be laminated on the hardened layer surface of the ~~basis~~ base material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Further, in the decorative item of the present invention, the hard coating may be disposed on a portion of the hardened layer surface of the ~~basis~~ base material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The decorative item is, for example, an exterior part of the timepiece.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--providing a ~~basis~~ base material of stainless steel having a hardened layer extending from a surface thereof to an arbitrary depth wherein a solute atom is diffused so as to form a solid solution; and--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--forming at least one hard coating on a surface of the hardened layer of the ~~basis~~ base material.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--One form of an exterior part of a timepiece according to the present invention comprises a stainless steel having at its surface a carburized layer wherein carbon is diffused

before use. The concentration of fluorogas per se in the diluted gas is generally in the range of 10,000 to 100,000 ppm by volume, preferably 20,000 to 70,000 ppm by volume, and still preferably 30,000 to 50,000 ppm by volume--

5 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The fluorination of the present invention is carried out by disposing, for example, a ~~basis~~ base material wrought into a given shape in a fluorogas atmosphere of the above concentration at 100 to 500°C. The period of fluorination, although varied depending on the type and size of fluorinated material, etc., is generally in the range of ten-odd minutes to some hours.--

10 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This fluorination leads to formation of a fluorinated coating highly permeable for carbon atoms on the surface of the ~~basis~~ base material. Accordingly, the subsequent gas carburization as hardening operation causes carbon atoms to penetrate and diffuse from the surface of stainless steel to the internal part thereof, so that a carburized hardened layer can be formed easily.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

20 --After the above gas carburization, the basis material for the decorative item, for example, the base material for the exterior part of the timepiece is pickled. For example, the base material for the exterior part of the timepiece is immersed in an acid solution.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

/ --After the above pickling, the basis material for the decorative item, for example, the base material for the exterior part of the timepiece is rinsed (washed).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

5 --By virtue of this rinsing, not only is any mill scale being peeled from the base material for the exterior part of the timepiece washed away but also the acid solution attaching to the base material for the exterior part of the timepiece is completely washed away so as to stop the advance of the roughening of the carburized hardened layer by the acid solution. Despite the above pickling and rinsing, the mill scale cannot be completely removed from the surface of the
10 base material for the exterior part of the timepiece.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--After the rinsing, the surface of the basis material for the decorative item, for example, the base material for the exterior part of the timepiece is subjected to barrel polishing.--

15 Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--For example, the base material for the exterior part of the timepiece is set inside a barrel vessel of a barrel polishing machine. Preferably, walnut chips and alumina abrasive as polishing mediums are placed in the barrel vessel. Barrel polishing is carried out for a period of about 10 hr to polish the rough surface formed at the outermost surface of the carburized hardened layer as well as the remaining mill scale.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Application No. 09/831,327
Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1775
Paper dated August 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 9, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The latter exterior part of the timepiece other than the wristwatch band is also carburized, preferably gas carburized, so that a carburized hardened layer is formed at the surface thereof.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--With respect to the surface hardness (HV) of the carburized layer having undergone the above machining, 500 or greater under a load of 50 g is satisfactory as the hardness of the exterior parts of the timepiece. It is preferred that the surface hardness be 600 or greater under a load of 50 g.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 45, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Also, in the exterior parts of the timepiece other than the wristwatch band comprising band pieces connected to each other by means of connecting parts, the base material thereof (base material for exterior parts of timepiece) is fluorinated by heating it in a fluorogas atmosphere at 250 to 600°C, preferably 300 to 500°C.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 50, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The base materials for band pieces and connecting parts thereof, or other exterior parts of the timepiece, after the above gas carburizing, are pickled in the same manner as described hereinbefore with respect to the decorative item of the present invention and the process for producing the same. For example, the base materials for band pieces and connecting parts thereof, or other exterior parts of the timepiece are immersed in an acid solution.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 54, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Another form of exterior part of timepiece according to the present invention comprises a metal, this metal having at its surface a deformed layer containing a fibrous structure wherein metal crystal grains are deformed so as to be fibrous, ~~at~~ at least the deformed layer having a hardened layer wherein a solute atom is diffused so as to form a solid solution.--

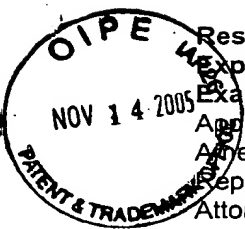
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 60, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In the present invention, for example, when a carburized layer as the hardened layer is formed on the surface of the deformed layer obtained in the above manner in the basis material for an exterior part of the timepiece, constituted of austenitic stainless steel containing no titanium metals, an exterior part of the timepiece is preferably produced through the following process.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 69, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Another form of the exterior part of the timepiece according to the present invention comprises a metal as a base material therefor, the metal having at its surface a deformed layer containing a fibrous structure wherein metal crystal grains are deformed so as to be fibrous, ~~at~~ at least the deformed layer having a hardened layer wherein a solute atom is diffused so as to form a solid solution. By virtue of this structure, the exterior part of the timepiece has a smooth or specular surface free of "orange peel" and is thus excellent in appearance.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 95, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:



Response Under 37 CFR 1.6
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1775
Application No. 09/831,327
Amendment After Final dated October 19, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of 09-22-2004
Attorney Docket No. 1217-010737

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/831,327 Confirmation No. 2880
Applicants : Hachirou Kushida et al.
Filed : May 7, 2001
Title : Decorative Item and Process for Producing the Same
Group Art Unit : 1775
Examiner : Archene A. Turner
Customer No. : 28289

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of September 22, 2004,
Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on
page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service as first
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for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
on October 19, 2004.

Diane Paul
(Typed Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Diane Paul

Signature

10/19/2004
Date

connecting parts prior to the fluorination to obtain a wristwatch band having machined surfaces.

32. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a wristwatch band, comprising the steps of:

fluorinating a plurality of band pieces of stainless steel and a plurality of connecting parts of stainless steel in a fluorogas atmosphere at 250 to 600°C;

5 gas carburizing the fluorinated band pieces and connecting parts in a carburizing gas atmosphere containing carbon monoxide at 400 to 500°C to form a carburized hardened layer extending from the surface of the fluorinated band pieces and connecting parts to an arbitrary depth wherein carbon is diffused so as to form a solid solution in which crystalline chromium carbides is not formed;

10 pickling the carburized band pieces and connecting parts, followed by rinsing; subjecting surfaces of the band pieces to barrel polishing; and connecting the band pieces by means of the connecting parts.

33. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 32, which further comprises buffing the band piece surfaces having undergone barrel polishing.

34. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 32, which further comprises machining surfaces of the plurality of band pieces prior to the fluorination to obtain a wristwatch band having machined surfaces.

35. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an exterior part of timepiece of a timepiece other than a wristwatch band, comprising the steps of:

connecting a plurality of pieces of stainless steel to each other by means of a plurality of connecting parts of stainless steel to obtain a base material for a timepiece exterior part of stainless steel other than a wristwatch band;

15 fluorinating the base material in a fluorogas atmosphere at 250 to 600°C;

gas carburizing the fluorinated base material in a carburizing gas atmosphere containing carbon monoxide at 400 to 500°C to form a carburized

hardened layer extending from the surface of the fluorinated base material to an arbitrary depth wherein carbon is diffused so as to form a solid solution in which crystalline chromium carbides is not formed;

pickling the carburized base material, followed by rinsing; and
subjecting surfaces of the base material to barrel polishing.

36. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 35, which further comprises buffing the base material surfaces having undergone barrel polishing.

37. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 35, which further comprises machining surfaces of the base material prior to the fluorination to obtain an exterior part of timepiece other than wristwatch band having machined surfaces.

Claims 38-60 (Canceled)

61. (Previously Presented) The exterior part of timepiece as claimed in claim 22, which is one produced by machining a surface of an exterior part of timepiece and thereafter carburizing the machined surface.

62. (Previously Presented) The wristwatch band as claimed in claim 25, wherein the band pieces are connected to each other by means of connecting parts of stainless steel,

each of the connecting parts having at at least a portion of its surface a carburized layer wherein carbon is diffused so as to form a solid solution.

63. (Previously Presented) The wristwatch band as claimed in claim 25, produced by connecting the band pieces to each other by means of connecting parts, carburizing the band pieces and the connecting parts, and thereafter polishing surfaces of the band pieces.